



Employee News

May 2003

News and Information for Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital Employees during the transition to community-based services.

Southeast Region Grant Announcement

FSSA is pleased to announce the availability of grant money for the southeast region of Indiana. The Southeast Regional Planning Council for Home and Community-Based Services has received a \$100,000 one-time federal grant for direct services to individuals and families with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and addictions.

Organizations, counties, communities, councils, and advocates are welcome to submit a Request for Funds (RFF) to Indiana University for approval. To qualify for this one-time grant, you must be located in one of Indiana's 18 southeastern counties (Brown, Bartholomew, Clark, Crawford, Decatur, Dearborn, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Lawrence, Ohio, Orange, Ripley, Scott, Switzerland, and Washington), submit an RFF, and provide an action plan for direct services to individuals and families with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and addictions.

The RFF packet and instructions are available on-line or by mail. RFF's must be submitted and postmarked no later than June 13, 2003. Evaluations and announcement of grant recipients will be completed on or before June 30, 2003.

For more information see the FSSA web site at: www.in.gov/fssa/servicedisabl/ddars/rff04.html.

Secretary Hamilton Responds To Your Questions

Q How did FSSA's regional service concept first become a priority for coordinating services?

A As you know, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration provides services to children and families, people with disabilities, senior citizens and people who need help with mental health and addiction.

To better integrate the way we help Hoosiers, FSSA is moving to a regional concept, creating a "single service" agency in each of eight regions across the state. The idea is to consolidate and coordinate social services for all individuals and families in the community, giving everyone a single entry point and making it easier to receive a range of services. Regional services are a paradigm shift from central office management and institutional reliance to regional management and community partnerships that create home-based and community-based services for all Hoosiers.

The creation of regional services began with the 1999 State Operated Facilities Report, produced by the Council on State-Operated Care Facilities. Governor Frank O'Bannon charged the council to find ways to provide high-quality, cost-efficient health care for individuals and families with developmental disabilities, mental illness

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and addiction at home and in the community.

From this charge, the council produced the State Operated Facilities (SOF) report recommending that the state be broken into eight “service” regions. Each region is to create a planning council made up of community leaders, service providers, individuals, families, Step Ahead councils, hospitals and union representatives to assess services provided by FSSA. The regional council is to identify service strengths and gaps within each region, then recommend how to fill those gaps to strengthen the safety net.

Since the introduction of the SOF report, FSSA has widened the regional net to include all Hoosiers, not just people with developmental disabilities, mental illness and addiction. Our vision is to provide regional services to Hoosiers of all ages and needs by combining the resources of three of FSSA’s four service divisions: The Division of Mental Health and Addiction; the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services; and the Division of Family and Children.

Q When will other areas of Indiana be regionalized?

A We are working to produce an Indiana FSSA Regional Service Plan, which will act as a blueprint for the creation of regional services. At this time, the Northeast Region and Central Region are underway. New members are always welcome to participate.

Regional packets and meeting minutes are available from FSSA upon request. For additional information, call 317-233-4454.



Finding Your Way Out of Debt

The siren’s song of plastic, a song that so many of us know all too well. But don’t despair – the allure of credit cards can be broken.

To begin your debt free journey consider the following:

- \$ Cut up all of your credit cards with the exception of one – the one having the lowest interest rate. Keep it only for emergencies.
- \$ Call your creditors. Discussing a repayment plan shows the creditor your desire to honor this responsibility. You may be able to negotiate a better interest rate.
- \$ Track your spending. Although this may sound tedious — tracking every penny spent throughout the day will give you a true picture of where your money goes.
- \$ Develop a budget and stick to it.

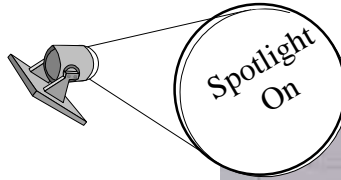
Stay focused on a *debt-free future!*

It makes cents!



Credit Cardectomy – the first step to financial freedom!

Nickie McClain Planning and Working Toward the Future



Prior to the closure announcement at M.S.D.C., Nickie McClain began remodeling his home. One part of that project was to replace dated and dangerous wiring. When the availability of an Electrician's Course was announced, Nickie was among the first to enroll.

North Vernon has been home for Nickie most of his life. After graduation from high school, Nickie joined the Air Force. Two of his four years were spent stationed at a base east of London, England. Nickie and a friend spent their leave time touring the English countryside. When his enlistment was completed, Nickie returned to the North Vernon area where he worked in several area factories.

In August of 1999, Nickie began working at M.S.D.C. He began as a D.S.T. with Liberty Healthcare. Nickie next transferred to Great Nurses, and he finally became a State employee in late 2000. In some ways, working at M.S.D.C. was the continuation of a family tradition for Nickie. His late father, James McClain, worked in the Pest Control Department. Nickie's mother, Madge Shell, still works in Dietary. His Grandmother, Evelyn Shepherd, is now a retired M.S.D.C. employee.

Nickie's electrical journey began in March of 2002 with a course in Basic Electricity. Two months later the class began studying Phase II of Basic Electricity. Classes were expanded to two days a week in the Fall of 2002. On one day they studied Motors and Controls, and the other day was spent with Residential Wiring. Currently the class remains on a two-day-a-week schedule learning the NEC Code and Block Testing.



Nickie McClain

Upon completion of these courses and testing, class members will be certified as Licensed Electricians.

None of this has come easy. The last two classes depleted all of the FSSA Special Funding available to Nickie. He has maintained a full time work schedule on evening shifts. Nickie and friend John Orem arrive for class an hour early twice a week in order to study together. The remodeling project at home has slowed, but it is receiving a more professional look at no additional cost.

Add to this mix of time and energy the fact that Nickie is the father of five children. Three of the girls live in the North Vernon home of Nickie and his wife Faith.

When asked why he chose the electrical field, Nickie replied, "there will always be a need for an electrician." His plan is to find work with an area Industrial Electrical Business.

\$725,478.00 has been used in training funds by 517 MSDC Staff, an average expenditure of \$1,403.00 per person.



Keep In Mind

MSDC/MSH Info Hot Line:
800-903-9822

Div. of Disability, Aging &
Rehab Services:
800-545-7763

Ombudsman: **800-622-4484**

Div. of Mental Health &
Addiction:
800-901-1133

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Future Issues

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Man is always more than he can know of himself; consequently, his accomplishments, time and again, will come as a surprise to him.
Golo Mann (b. 1909), German historian

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